

## United States Senate

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November 18, 2014

The Honorable Mary Landrieu  
Chairman  
Senate Committee on Energy and Natural  
Resources  
Dirksen 304  
United States Senate

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski  
Ranking Member  
Senate Committee on Energy and Natural  
Resources  
Dirksen 304  
United States Senate

Dear Chairman Landrieu and Ranking Member Murkowski:

Today, I am reintroducing The Soledad Canyon Settlement Act with changes that will result in a zero score from the Congressional Budget Office. As you know, the expected cost was a crucial impediment against moving forward with this legislation. With this issue now resolved, I hope you will join me in support of this legislation.

As you know, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) issued two consecutive, ten-year contracts in 1990 for the extraction of 56 million tons of sand and gravel, which are now held by CEMEX USA. The split estate's surface is owned by the City of Santa Clarita, California with the underlying mineral estate owned by the BLM.

The placement of this mining operation is no longer appropriate to their community, whose population has almost doubled from 110,000 two decades ago to today's 210,000 people. This mine would negatively impact traffic congestion, air quality, and the area's fragile natural resources. Soledad Canyon is located in an area identified by several federal studies as important for wildlife habitat connectivity between the two segments of the Angeles National Forest. If action is not taken soon, securing this key link will be lost forever.

The latest version of my bill, which has the support of both the City of Santa Clarita and CEMEX, cancels the mining contracts and fairly compensates CEMEX for the value of their valid contracts - all at no cost to the federal government. I believe this provision fairly resolves this problem to the community's and the company's satisfaction, and I would appreciate your help resolving this difficult and long standing issue of great importance to my constituents. Enclosed, please find a copy of the revised legislation.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Barbara Boxer', written over a horizontal line.

BARBARA BOXER  
United States Senator

Enclosure

cc: Senator Dianne Feinstein  
Congressman Buck McKeon  
Congressman-Elect Steve Knight